

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20  
SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 DOE-15 INT-05  
OMB-01 OES-07 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /140 W  
-----032244 070718Z /11

R 070234Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9725  
INFO DIA WASHDC  
ALL EC CAPITALS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 11442

E.O. 1165 2: N/A  
TAGS: PARM ENRG EEC  
SUBJ: US-EURATOM RENEGOTIATIONS: FRENCH PRESS COMMENT  
APRIL 6, 1978

REF: PARIS 11185

TYPICAL OF THE STORIES OF THURSDAY, APRIL 6, CARRIED  
IN PARIS NEWSPAPERS ARE THE FOLLOWING INCLUDED PIECES  
(INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATIONS): "THE COPENHAGEN  
SUMMIT WILL HAVE TO ARBITRATE THE FRENCH-AMERICAN  
DISAGREEMENT ON DELIVERIES OF ENRICHED URANIUM", "THE  
RPR AND AN EVENTUAL RENEGOTIATION OF THE US-EURATOM  
AGREEMENT", "PARIS REFUSES TO RENEGOTIATE THE US-  
EURATOM AGREEMENT".

1. "THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT WILL HAVE TO ARBITRATE THE  
FRENCH-AMERICAN DISAGREEMENT ON DELIVERIES OF  
ENRICHED URANIUM (EXCERPTS FROM LE MONDE, APRIL 6, 1978)

"HEADS OF STATE WILL HAVE TO ARBITRATE THE  
DISAGREEMENT WHICH AROSE BETWEEN FRANCE AND ITS PARTNERS  
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REGARDING NUCLEAR RELATIONS WITH THE US. THE AMERICAN  
CONGRESS IS CONCERNED ABOUT REINFORCING CONTROLS ON  
THE EXPORTATION OF NUCLEAR FUELS AND, RECENTLY, ADOPTED  
A LAW WHICH GIVES 30 DAYS TO THE US PARTNERS-CUSTOMERS  
TO RENEGOTIATE THEIR BINDING AGREEMENTS AND THREATENS TO  
SUSPEND DELIVERIES OF ENRICHED URANIUM IN CASE OF  
RESULAL. THE COMMUNITY HAS UNTIL APRIL 9 TO STATE

WHETHER IT AGREES TO RENEGOTIATE THE US-EURATOM AGREEMENT.

" THE COMMISSION, SUPPORTED BY EIGHT MEMBER STATES, WISHED TO SEND A LETTER TO WASHINGTON ACCEPTING THE PRINCIPLE OF THE RENEGOTIATION WHILE, IN SUBSTANCE, PRESERVING THE RIGHTS OF THE COMMUNITY. FRANCE OPPOSED THIS FIRMLY. THE ATTITUDE OF THE US WAS QUALIFIED AS INADMISSIBLE BY MR. DE GUIRINGAUD, WHO COMMENTED: "ON A LEGAL LEVEL, I DO NOT SEE WHY INTERNAL RIGHT SHOULD PREVAIL OVER INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS (THE US-EURATOM AGREEMENT DOES NOT EXPIRE UNTIL 1995); ON A POLITICAL LEVEL, IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT WE ONLY AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN A FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION PROGRAM UNDER THE STRICT CONDITION THAT PROCEDURES FOR THE DELIVERY OF URANIUM WOULD NOT BE QUESTIONED AGAIN, AT LEAST AS LONG AS CONCLUSIONS OF THE EVALUATION PROGRAM HAD NOT BEEN DRAWN BY COMMON AGREEMENT. REQUIREMENTS FORMULATED BY THE AMERICAN ARE FLATLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH COMMITMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER HIMSELF."

"MOREOVER, THE FRENCH, WHO CONSIDER THIS MATTER AS "AN ESSENTIAL QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE", DO NOT THINK THAT THE UK WOULD GO AS FAR AS ABRUPTLY SUSPENDING DELIVERIES OF ENRICHED URANIUM. THEY POINT OUT THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN THE NEW LAW THAT COMPELS PRESIDENT UNCLASSIFIED

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CARTER TO ACT IN SUCH A MANNER. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THEY WILL SUCCEED IN CONVINCING THE GERMANS, WHO ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT A POSSIBLE BREAKING OFF OF THEIR SUPPLIES, THAT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SUFFICIENTLY FAVORABLE FOR RISKING A SHOW-DOWN WITH WASHINGTON AND, MAYBE IN THIS WAY, MAKING AN IMPORTANT POINT IN FAVOR OF THE EEC'S NUCLEAR POLICY.

"THE RPR ('RASSEMBLEMENT POUR LA REPUBLIQUE') AND AN EVENTUAL RENEGOTIATION OF THE US-EURATOM AGREEMENT (AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, APRIL 5, 1978)

"THE RPR INDICATED WEDNESDAY THAT IT SUPPORTED THE FRENCH PRESIDENT'S REFUSAL TO RENEGOTIATE THE EXISTING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOR ATOMIC ENERGY (EURATOM) AND THE US, AS THE US GOVERNMENT WISHED. IN A STATEMENT, THE RPR EXPRESSED ITS SATISFACTION AT THE 'FIRM' ATTITUDE OF FRANCE, 'THE ONLY MEMBER COUNTRY OF THE EEC WHICH REFUSED TO GIVE IN TO THESE REQUIREMENTS.' THIS FIRMNESS, THE RPR CONTINUED, DESERVES TO BE UNDERLINED AND SUPPORTED BECAUSE OUR PARTNERS WOULD NOT FAIL TO EXERT NEW PRESSURES ON THE

FRENCH GOVERNMENT. FINALLY, ACCORDING TO THE

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RPR, IT WILL SUPPORT PRESIDENT GISCARD ON THIS MATTER  
SINCE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IS AT STAKE.

"PARIS REFUSES TO RENEGOTIATE THE US-EURATOM  
AGREEMENT (LE MATIN, APRIL 6, 1978)

"WHILE AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE TO THE LIMITATION OF  
NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, FRANCE CONTINUES TO OPPOSE THE  
US ON THE MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH IT. THIS EXPLAINS  
FOREIGN MINISTER LOUIS DE GUIRINGAUD'S OUTBURST  
TUESDAY IN LUXEMBOURG WHEN HE REFUSED TO RENEGOTIATE  
THE US-EURATOM AGREEMENT IN SPITE OF THE THREAT OF AN  
AMERICAN EMBARGO ON ENRICHED URANIUM DELIVERIES.

"FRANCE'S FLAT REFUSAL TO RENEGOTIATE THE TERMS OF  
THE AGREEMENT WILL PROBABLY NOT ENTAIL A US EMBARGO ON  
SUCH DELIVERIES TO THE NINE. AS FAR AS THEY WERE  
CONCERNED, FRANCE'S EIGHT PARTNERS IN THE COMMON MARKET  
WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT AMERICAN CONDITIONS. BUT FOR  
PARIS IT IS A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE.

"A FRENCH DIPLOMAT ADMITTED THAT A LOT OF THINGS  
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HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN 1959. HOWEVER, IS IT NECESSARY FOR EUROPEANS TO CONCEDE TO THE US ULTIMATUM AND TO SUBJECT THEMSELVES TO THE TERMS OF AN AMERICAN LAW (THE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION ACT) -- AN ULTIMATUM WHICH INCLUDES THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EMBARGO ON FISSIONABLE MATERIALS. THIS LAW IS PARTICULARLY RESTRICTIVE, CALLING FOR A BAN ON PLUTONIUM AND REPROCESSING OF IRRADIATED NUCLEAR FUELS -- A GOOD WAY OF DAMNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF BREEDER REACTORS SO DEAR TO FRENCH NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS.

"AT THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT WHICH STARTS ON FRIDAY, THE NINE WILL TRY TO FIND A MEANS OF COMPROMISE WITH WASHINGTON -- A COMPROMISE, IT'S SAID, WHEREIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ACKNOWLEDGES "IT WENT A BIT FAR", AND WHEREIN IT EXAMINES THE POSSIBILITIES OF A DEROGATION OF THE TERMS OF THE LAW. IT'S CERTAIN THAT PARIS WILL PROPOSE A CONSULTATION TO ITS PARTNERS BUT IT WILL NOT GIVE IN ON THE PRINCIPLE OF A RENEGOTIATION WITH THE US, FOR UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AMERICAN EMBARGO IS ENTIRELY UNREALISTIC.  
HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

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